

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 11 and 12 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 6 and 12 can be found at least at page 26, line 8 - page 28, line 7 of the specification. Support for the amendments to claim 7 can be found at least in Fig. 5 and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. Claim 11 is amended for form. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Lau and Zimmerman in the June 24, 2010 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura et al. (EP 1 286 297) in view of Mitsumoto (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,701) and further in view of Yamasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,454); rejects claims 6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Yamasaki; and rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Funakoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,861,816) and further in view of Yamasaki. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Nakamura, Mitsumoto, Yamasaki and Funakoshi, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to teach and would not have rendered obvious the claimed combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12. Nakamura, Mitsumoto, Yamasaki and Funakoshi fail to teach and would not have rendered obvious "an engine starting switch that starts the engine of the vehicle based on the electronic key being certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for starting the engine and without performing human body certification," as recited in independent claim 1; "an engine starting switch that starts the engine of the vehicle based on the electronic key being certified by the certifying device of the

electronic key for starting the engine and the information that the human body certification information is certified is written in the electronic key, without performing human body certification after the vehicle door is unlocked by the door lock control device," as recited in independent claim 6; "a door locking control device that unlocks the door based on the electronic key being certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for getting in the vehicle and without performing human body certification after the engine is started by the engine starting control device," as recited in independent claim 7; and "a door locking control device that unlocks the door based on the electronic key being certified by the certifying device of the electronic key for getting in the vehicle, and information that the human body certification information is confirmed is written in the electronic key, without performing human body certification after the engine is started by the engine starting control device," as recited in independent claim 12 (emphasis added).

The present application relates to a system where human body certification data and electronic key ID certification data are required to permit a first operation (e.g., unlocking a vehicle door or starting a vehicle engine). The electronic key ID certification data is then stored in a memory and, to permit a second operation (e.g., starting the vehicle engine or unlocking the vehicle door), the electronic key ID certification data is used to certify an electronic key held by an approaching user. The system need not obtain the human body certification data when permitting the second operation because it has already stored the electronic key certification data, thus achieving a simpler certification process that permits the second operation without performing human body certification after the first operation is performed.

Nakamura fails to disclose the above feature. As shown in Fig. 6, in order to permit a first operation (e.g., unlocking of a door), both human body certification data and electronic key ID certification data are required. Similarly, in order to permit the second operation (e.g.,

starting the vehicle engine), both human body certification data and electronic key ID certification data are again required. Thus, Nakamura fails to teach permitting the second operation without performing human body certification after the first operation is performed, as recited in independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12.

Applicant further notes that the above feature cannot be achieved merely by omitting the use of human body certification data in the second permitting operation of Nakamura. That is, in the inventions of independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12, the omission of human body certification data is compensated for by, for example, the storing of the electronic key ID certification data and certifying the user's electronic key when the user holding the electronic key approaches the vehicle.

Mitsumoto, Yamasaki and Funakoshi fail to remedy the deficiencies of Nakamura.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 6, 7 and 12 are patentable over Nakamura, Mitsumoto, Yamasaki and Funakoshi. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 2-4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Mitsumoto and further in view of Yamasaki and Sues et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,229,648); rejects claims 8, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Funakoshi and further in view of Yamasaki and Denison et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0097141); and rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nakamura in view of Funakoshi and further in view of Yamasaki, Denison and Goodman et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0043566). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Sues, Denison and Goodman fail to remedy the deficiencies of Nakamura, Mitsumoto, Yamasaki and Funakoshi. Further, claims 2-5 and 8-11 respectively depend from independent claims 1 and 7. Therefore, claims 2-5 and 8-11 are patentable for at least their

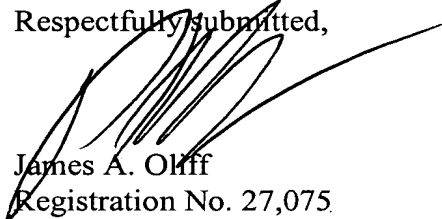
dependency on independent claims 1 and 7, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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